inflation published subsequently due to difference between the provisional and the final WPI.

Effect and reduction of import duty on natural rubber

3687. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce import duty on natural rubber, for purchases from Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would affect adversely the rubber growers in the country;

(d) whether Government are aware that due to increased imports during the year 2006-07, the indigenous price of natural rubber has come down, to the detriment of rubber growers, particularly in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government to protect the rubber growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Total import of natural rubber during November, 2006 to March, 2007 was 60,897 tonnes as against 10,721 tonnes during the same period in the previous year. During the period from October, 2006 to January, 2007, international prices were lower than the domestic prices and in the remaining period domestic prices have been lower than international prices. As a result thereof, there was surge in imports and prices declined in the domestic market. The average price of RSS 4 grade of natural rubber at Kottayam market was Rs. 9757 per 100 kg in February, 2007 it was Rs. 9057 in March, 2007 and Rs. 8979 in April, 2007.

The Natural Rubber (NR) carries an import duty and there has been no change in the duty structure. India has also kept all the traded forms of

Natural Rubber (NR) in the negative list of various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and its import is closely monitored by the Government.

Enforcement of labour laws and IPC in SEZ premises

†3688. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour laws of the State and IPC. will be enforced by Government in the premises of SEZs;

(b) the names of the States where Special Economic Zones are being established, alongwith the State-wise number thereof; and

(c) the status of the development of the said SEZs, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules were operationalised with effect from 10th Februray 2006, 237 formal approvals have been granted of which three proposals have since been withdrawn/cancelled. Out of the 234 valid formal approvals, 101 SEZs have been notified which are at various stages of project implementation. State-wise details of the formally approved SEZs and those notified are as follows:—

SL. No	Name of the State/UT	Formal approvals granted	SEZs notified under the SEZ Act, 2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	26
2.	Chandigarh	2	1
3.	Delhi	1	—
4.	Goa	4	1
5.	Gujarat	19	7
6.	Haryana	19	7
7.	Jharkhand	1	1

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.